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RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 4000
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SUBJECT: NORWAY WORKING THROUGH OSCE ON ABKHAZIA AND SOUTH
OSSETIA

REF: STATE 40673

1.(U) Norway shares U.S. concerns over Russia's creation of "mechanisms" regarding relations with Russian citizens in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and has expressed these concerns through their permanent delegation to the OSCE. The Norwegian Ambassador to the OSCE released a statement on April 17 welcoming the initiatives put forward by the Georgian President and calling upon the Abkhaz authorities to consider these initiatives seriously. The statement also expressed Norway's concern "with the unilateral actions taken by Russia to establish legal links with the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Georgia's territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty must be respected. We urge the Russian Federation to reverse these measures." Norway also supported the similar EU declaration issued after their OSCE declaration.

WHITNEY